

## CALFED Upper Watershed Coordination Planning Meeting

The first of a series of watershed meetings was held on May 29, 1997 at the Placer County Water Agency, Auburn, California. The purpose of the planning meeting was to determine the scope of watershed agency activities being conducted in the upper watershed, to discuss approaches to integrate local watershed group needs, and to discuss the relationship of upper watershed activities to the CALFED Bay Delta process.

We heard presentations from a variety of interests including the Sierra Nevada Alliance, Regional Council of Rural Counties, Resources Agency, California Forestry Association, USDA Forest Services, and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Many issues were presented, some of which were consistently mentioned among the presenters:

- ✓ The need for a consistent approach to watershed assessment in order to have the data be systematically compared to other studies.
- ✓ The need for a regional coordination role that cuts across agency jurisdictional boundaries.
- ✓ The need for a mechanism to address mixed ownership of lands and how this will relate to the CALFED solution areas.
- ✓ The need for ongoing technical support to local watershed groups.
- ✓ Better planning of good watershed management with no misdirected impacts. A mechanism to identify duplication, overlap, inefficient use of funds.
- ✓ Support of development of grass roots watershed groups. Development of local watershed infrastructure.
- ✓ Emphasis on water use efficiency as a tool for watershed management.
- ✓ Development of partnerships and new symbiotic relationships with agencies and local entities (e.g. interagency cooperative agreements, local government links, re-investment component back into local government).
- ✓ Development of pilot projects as well as planning projects. Large scale projects could result in large enough output to measure up economically and realize reinvestment opportunities to local government.
- ✓ Reporting protocols are lacking. There is a need for better monitoring and data standardization.
- ✓ Investigations on water yield from both a water quality and water quantity, including groundwater sources, needs to occur. Relationship of upper watershed activities to the Bay-Delta problems is important.

It was planned to have a discussion event on several issues but time ran out. Instead, an issue paper asking for comments will be sent to the attendees. The discussion issues include:

1. What is the appropriate CALFED definition for "upper watershed"? What is the relationship of upper watershed activities to the CALFED process?
2. What are recommended approaches to coordinate watershed initiatives and what is the recommended mechanism for CALFED to coordinate with watershed activities being conducted at the federal, State and local level?
3. What are the watershed issues that need to be on future workshop agendas? What coordinated outreach mechanisms are suggested?

On May 14, 1997 a CALFED Draft Watershed Management Framework was submitted to the PCT for comment by June 4, 1997. No written comments have yet been received. The Framework sets up a proposed structure to provide a watershed coordination approach in the CALFED process. The information from the Upper Watershed Coordination Planning Meeting has provided valuable insight into the direction CALFED can take.